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OCA 88-2077

	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Office of Congressional Affairs Washington, D.C. 20505 Telephone: 482-6136
	21 June 1988
TO: Mr. Robert M. Jenkins House Foreign Affairs Committee 2170 Rayburn Bldg. Washington, D. C. 20515	
Dear Bob:	
Here is some information on the People's Mujahedin. I doubt there is enough to schedule a briefing.	
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House Affairs Office of Congressional Affairs	
Enclosure	

FORM 2-86 **1533**

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20 June 1987

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Iranian Opposition Group, Mujahedin-e Khalq.

1. The People's Mujahedin Organization of Iran*--known in Iran as the Mujahedin-e Khalq--was founded in Iran in the 1960s to oppose the Shah. This group combines Islamic and Marxist ideas and has advocated violence since its inception. During the 1970s the Mujahedin assassinated at least six Americans in Iran. The group now portrays itself as a democratic alternative to the Khomeini regime, but its basic principles have not changed and terrorism remains an instrument of its policy. [REDACTED]

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2. Following the Islamic Revolution, the Mujahedin at first supported Ayatollah Khomeini, and its cadre served as security forces for the regime. The group took partial credit for the prolonged holding of American diplomats as hostages and staged a large demonstration protesting their release. [REDACTED]

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3. By 1981 the Mujahedin had fallen out with the ruling clerics and began a campaign of terrorism to destabilize the regime. The Mujahedin posed a serious challenge to the Islamic Republic before being brutally repressed in 1981. At its peak in 1981, the group had a cadre of around 10,000, primarily consisting of educated urban youths, and had penetrated the government and the Revolutionary Guard. Various sources indicate that the regime executed between 4,000 and 8,000 Mujahedin members. [REDACTED]

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4. We do not know the current status of Mujahedin leaders in Iran or the number of cadre that remain, but since 1981 the group has been able to carry out only sporadic terrorist bombings and attacks that have not posed a serious threat to the regime. The group also conducts limited guerrilla operations inside Iran from bases in Iraq. [REDACTED]

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*The Mujahedin also goes under the following names: The National Council of Resistance, Iran Relief Fund and Moslem Iranian Students Society.

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SECRET [REDACTED]

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5. The Mujahedin's appeal has been damaged since 1981 by the conduct of its leader, Musud Rajavi. Rajavi is charismatic, but has lost credibility since he fled Iran in 1981, leaving behind his militant wife, who was subsequently killed by security forces. His appeal and that of his group was dealt another blow among Iranians ~~last year~~ when Rajavi accepted Iraq as his patron and moved there following following his expulsion from France. [REDACTED]

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SECRET² [REDACTED]

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